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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR SY LE PLO
SUBJ: SAIQA PAMPHLET OUTLINES HISTORY OF SYRIAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON: LINKS FATAH WITH MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

1. BUNDLE OF SAIQA PAMPHLETS ENTITLED "AL-HAQIQAH" (THE TRUTH), RECENTLY RECEIVED BY EMBASSY IN MAIL CONTAINS INTERESTING GLIMPSES INTO SYRIAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANESE CIVIL WAR. JULY 3 ISSUE INCLUDES FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST:

(A) ADMISSION THAT "SYRIAN SPECIAL UNITS" WERE INVOLVED IN FIGHTING IN LEBANON POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS DECEMBER 1975;
(B) ADMISSION THAT SYRIAN FORCES CLASHED WITH PALESTINIANS DURING JUNE INTERVENTIAON;
(C) CRITICISM OF CHAMOUN BUT NO MENTION OF PHALANGE;
(D) "SOME PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS" ALLIED THEM-
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SELVES WITH JUMBLATT, FOUGHT WAR OF ATTRITION WITH

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CHRISTIANS IN MOUNT LEBANON REGION AND CONSEQUENTLY LOST
THEIR ABILITY TO DEFEND "OUR PEOPLE" IN THEIR CAMPS;
(E) PALESTINIAN COMMANDS THAT PERMITTED DISASTERS
IN LEBANON TO OCCUR SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO ACCOUNT.

2. TRACT ALSO ATTEMPTED TO SMEAR FATAH WITH CHARGE OF
MAINTAINING COVERT MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD TIES. ACCORDING TO
PAMPHLET, "SUPREME COMMAND OF FATAH (NOT THE KNOWN
COMMAND BUT A CLANDESTINE COMMAND) ALL OF WHOSE MEMBERS
BELONG TO MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD, INCLUDES TWO EGYPTIANS,
SAID RAMADAN AND ABD AL-MUNIM ABD AL-RAUF. NINE OUT OF
ELEVEN MEMBERS OF FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE FORMERLY BELONGED
TO BROTHERHOOD OR ISLAMIC LIBERATION PARTY. TWENTY-ONE
OUT OF THIRTY-SIX MEMBERS OF FATAH REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL
USED TO BELONG TO THESE TWO PARTIES."

3. AL-HAQIQAH ASSERTED THAT PLA SOLDIERS HAVE BEGUN TO
ESCAPE FROM FATAH DETENTION INTO SYRIA. UNFORTUNATELY,
PLA BAATHISTS UNCOVERED BY FATAH HAVE BEEN ARRESTED OR
LIQUIDATED.

4. PAMPHLET CONCLUDED WITH CONDEMNATION OF ACTIONS FOR
WHICH PFLP LEADER GEORGE HABASH HELD RESPONSIBLE:

(A) ASSASSINATION OF AMB MELY, COUNSELOR WARING
AND DRIVER MOGHRABI;
(B) HIJACKING OF FRENCH AIRLINER;
(C) JUNE 28 ANNOUNCEMENT REJECTING CAIRO AGREEMENT; AND
(D) PFLP ATTACKS ON LEBANESE SHIITES.

5. COMMENT: WE STRUCK BY SAIQA'S ATTEMPT TO TAR FATAH
WITH MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD BRUSH, WHICH MAY BE ATTEMPT TO
DIMINISH SYMPATHY FOR PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON FELT BY
MINORITIES AND MAINSTREAM SUNNI MODERATES IN SYRIA WHO
HAVE NO TRUCK WITH BROTHERHOOD'S EXTREMIST POLICIES.
ALSO, IF FATAH COULD SUCCESSFULLY BE BRANDED AS "EXTREME
RIGHT," BAATHI-SPONSORED SAIQA MIGHT BE ABLE TO COMPETE
MORE SUCCESSFULLY FOR SUPPORT AMONG MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD
PALESTINIANS. SAIQA'S INDIRECT ADMISSION OF SYRIAN
TROOP PRESENCE IN LEBANON AND EXISTENCE OF MILITARY
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OPPOSITION TO SYRIAN ADVANCE INTO LEBANON SIX WEEKS AGO
DEVIATES FROM OFFICIAL SARG PORTRAYAL OF EVENTS, AS DOES
FINGERING OF GEORGE HABASH FOR ASSASSINATION TRAGEDY
WHICH ACCORDING TO LAST SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT WAS PERPETRATED
BY "SOCIALIST ACTION MOVEMENT."
MURPHY

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